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measure. In short, that man must allow himself no little corner of selfishness. This is all familiar matter, but the counsels of Jesus have been so darkened by disputes and formalism and by the contrary course of civilization that perhaps the simplicity of the doctrine cannot be too often repeated.

The book is carelessly written, without elegance or even precision of style, but it is a sincere and simple plea for the study of the true significance of the teachings of Jesus.

SURGERY AND SOCIETY. By C. W. SALEEBY, M.D., F.R.S. New York: Moffat, Yard & Company, 1912.

This book is an attempt to define in plain, untechnical language the part surgery has played in the society of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and it deserves perhaps more space than can be given to it here, on account of the sociological importance that naturally attaches to a subject so interwoven with society's needs as surgery has been.

The author takes early occasion to reaffirm his position in Eugenics, of which he has become a leading exponent in England, and to associate this race culture with Listerism, or Modern Surgical Methods, the application of which to maternity cases has resulted in the disappearance of that greatest of all plagues, puerperal fever, and the presentation to the State of normal, healthy children. Without going into the question of the quality of progeny, rather than the quantity, it is of absorbing interest to read in these pages the disappearance of infectious fever that used to be carried by doctors, ignorant of science, on their hands and clothes and instruments, from mother to mother, killing all, until in some periods whole villages were completely deprived of their child-bearing women. "The proportion of those killed in giving life was higher than among those that went forth to take it in battle," the author says.

Under these circumstances, it was impossible, with the conditions of urban segregation of which the nineteenth century was giving evidence, to maintain a healthy population. Not only was this scourge more ruinous to the State than war, sapping the lives of thousands of mothers, but most of the other great epidemics were untreated because the origin of them was unknown.

These were the conditions then when Pasteur discovered the process of fermentation early in the nineteenth century. It was perhaps the most singly beneficent scientific fact that the century has to boast of. It is said that following this discovery and others of an allied nature by Pasteur, and in consequence of them, the products of the industries of France became more than sufficient to pay the German war indemnity of 1871. But more than this, it led Lister, who was then a young surgeon in Glasgow, to the discovery of the causes of infectious fevers; because he reasoned by analogy that if fermentation, as in yeast, was produced by a single agent, or ferment, that single agent, or germ, or causative influence, was responsible for the communicable fevers, which seemed themselves to be of a fermentable nature. Thus was the germ theory born.

Lister now sought the life histories of these germs: the media in which they thrived, and that in which they died; and in 1868 announced his results to the surgical world, launching the great antiseptic and aseptic

movements that were to transform the practice of the ages, and were to result "in the saving of more lives every year than Napoleon took in all his wars."

This was the origin of modern surgery and preventive medicine; how it has developed and what it means to human society is told through many interesting chapters which will be carefully read by those who are interested in knowing how it has happened that vast masses of people can now live in the great cities of the world without fear of the epidemics that formerly devastated them from time to time.

The changing social needs of the people and their relations to the medical profession are discussed from a novel standpoint, and will doubtless prove of great concern to the medical man who reads that, as a curer of disease, he has outlived his usefulness, and will soon pass into history along with the diseases that Pasteur and Lister and their followers have taught them to prevent.

The rest of the book is taken up with various sociological phases that relate to the medical profession and to vivisection as a medical man sees it.

DAILY BREAD. By WILFRID WILSON GIBSON. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1912.

Nothing could more definitely prove the spreading sense of brotherly obligation and responsibility in the world than the fact of the unremitting preoccupation with them shown by all the young dramatists and poets. Everywhere the consciousness of human suffering is becoming more poignant, and expressing itself as all real emotion will in altruistic action. Masfield, Galsworthy, Barker, Besier are all writing of the rights of man and the claims of the downtrodden. It is the same theme which inspires this volume of poetic monologues and dialogues by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson. In a lovely and poetic foreword the poet compares his growing sense of the travail and sorrows of the world to one who, wakened at midnight by the cries of the golden plover, soon hears the breaking of the surges on reef and rock, until all sense of self and personal destiny are drowned in the mightier music of humanity:

"So I, first waking from oblivion, heard
 With heart that kindled to the call of song,
 The voice of young life, fluting like a bird,
 And echoed that light liting; till, ere long
 Lured onward by that happy, singing flight,
 I caught the stormy summons of the sea,
 And dared the restless deeps that, day and night,
 Surge with the life-song of humanity."

Except for the short, lyrical foreword, the poems are all long and all in narrative form. In them is simplicity of *motif*, searching pity, an almost Wordsworthian penetration of the heart of naive humanity. Not quite so touching as Wordsworth's Margaret, Michael, and Lucy lyrics, these poems are yet deeply human and full of the beauty of profound feeling and intimate understanding.